Country	Company
China	Beijing Mentougou Chengzi Diamond Factory; Best Cheer; Chinstar Fair Co. Ltd.; Longhi Douling Saw Blade Co. Ltd.; Quanzou Jinli Diamond Cutting Tools Co. Ltd.; Yichang HXF Circular Saw Industrial Co. Ltd.'; Zhengzhou Anuha Abrasives Industrial Co. Ltd.
Italy	Barsanti; Bideseimpianti srl; Breton; East India Co. srl; IMM Carrara; Marmo Macchine International; Olifer srl; Pedrini; Pometon; Pragma srl; Tyrolit; Verona Fair Authority
Belgium	Diamond Boart SA
Greece	Drama Marmor Lazaridis sa Drama
Spain	Piedra; solga Diamant

(c) and (d) The event was a success and provided an excellent opportunity to showcase Indian dimensional stone prowess to the national and international market. The event also provided a platform for interaction to architects, experts and important players in the sector. In all 24 Letter of Intents (LOIs)/Sale agreements were signed between Indian and Foreign companies. Around 4900 domestic/overseas queries were received which are likely to result in substantial business. As many as 120 one-to-one buyer-seller meetings were also held in the event.

Tobacco farming under contract farming

1866. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are moves to bring tobacco farming in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka under contract farming by vested interests;

(b) whether tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have strongly opposed the move and pressed for the continuation of existing production and auction system under the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether the contract farming system in operation before the formation of Tobacco Board proved to be anti-farmer with underweighment of produce and delayed payments by buyers/agents; and

(d) whether Government will endeavour to stall such moves for contract farming of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) There have been suggestions in passing from certain quarters that contract farming, on a limited scale, particularly where foreign direct investment is concerned, could be allowed in the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco sector. The Tobacco Growers' Association have urged, however, that the present system be continued. At present, Government do not propose to change this system.

International sea food show at Goa

1867. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has organized an International Sea Food Show at Goa recently;

(b) the details of this show;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the numbr of participants at the show;

(e) whether MPEDA has taken any steps to counter the negative image of Indian Marine products in the International Market; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Seafood Exports Association of India (SEAI) have jointly organized the 14th India International Seafood Show - 2003 at Panaji, Goa, during 7-9 February, 2003.

(b) The major components of the show were an exhibition and 3 Business Sessions. 76 exhibitors representing various sectors of the seafood industry participated in the exhibition. The topics of the 3 Business Sesions were (i) Aquaculture and Fisheries; (ii) Prevailing Market Situations; and (iii) Seafood Quality and Chemical Contamination.

(c) There was an Organising Committee for organising the Show and expenditure incurred in this regard would be known only after the accounts are finalized.